## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115168 ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 H-01 EB-04 INR-05 CIAE-00 HA-02 L-01 /040 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON/FMLC APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY EA/VLC:FZBROWN IO/AGR:JWOLFF (SUBS.) H:DKENNEY(SUBS.)

-----029489 060111Z/61

P R 051942Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII 0246

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 115168

LIMDIS ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, EAGR, US, LA, UNDP, WFP

SUBJECT: FOOD AID TO LAOS

REF: VIENTIANE 509

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY UNDP NEW YORK THAT UNDP RESREP IN VIENTIANE HAS SENT THEM CABLE ASKING FOR NEW APPEAL FOR AID TO LAOS TO ARRIVE IN JUNE-SEPTEMBER TIMEFRAME. RESREP STATES THAT THERE IS SERIOUS OUTSTANDING DEFICIT OF SOME 25,000 TONS OF FOOD AID NEEDED FOR LAOS (VICE THE APPROXIMATELY 20,000 TONS UNDP HAD ESTIMATED IN APRIL). CABLE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 115168

FROM RESREP VIENTIANE ALSO STATES "THERE IS NO QUESTION LAOS NOT ABLE TO ABSORB FOOD AID. STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION CONSTITUTE NO PROBLEM SO LONG AS FOOD ARRIVES AT VIENTIANE AND NOT REPEAT NOT AT SAVANNAKHET." FINALLY, RESREP STATES THERE IS SLIPPAGE OF SOME 12,000 TONS OF FOODSTUFFS WHICH WILL NOT NOW BE FORTHCOMING.

2. WE ASSUME RESREP'S CABLE WAS RESPONSE TO SITUATION DESCRIBED IN REFTEL. INFORMATION HE HAS PROVIDED UNDP NEW YORK IS NOW BEING ACTIVELY DISSEMINATED HERE BY QUAKERS AND MENNONITES AND BY CONGRESSMEN WHO SUPPORT FOOD AID FOR LAOS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, REQUEST EMBASSY VIENTIANE AND FODAG ROME TO TRY TO DISCOVER WHERE 12,000 TON "SLIPPAGE"

HAS OCCURRED FROM WFP AND UNDP VIENTIANE SOURCES. UNDP NEW YORK DOES NOT HAVE INFORMATION ON WHICH DONORS HAVE NOT COME UP WITH PROMISED FOOD.

4. FOR VIENTIANE: WE ASSUME FROM PARA 4 REFTEL THAT IT REMAINS YOUR BEST ASSESSMENT THAT U.S. FOOD AID WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE NEEDED IN NEXT FEW MONTHS, BUT NEED YOUR CONFIRMATION OF THIS. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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